

ALABAMA MEDICAID AGENCY

To: Patient 1st PMPs

From: Leigh Ann Payne
Patient 1st Program Manager

Date: September 07, 2005

Re: P1-3

This is the third transmittal letter sent to PMPs to facilitate communication about the Patient 1st program and issues that may arise. Each of these transmittals can be accessed on the Alabama Medicaid Website (www.medicaid.state.al.us) under the Patient 1st Program.

First I would like to let you know that I, Leigh Ann Payne am now the Patient 1st Program Manager. If you have any questions regarding the Patient 1st program, you may contact me at 334-242-5148, Gloria Wright at 334-353-5907 or Kim Davis-Allen at 334-242-5011. You may also contact us by e-mail at the following addresses: lpayne@medicaid.state.al.us , gwright@medicaid.state.al.us or kdavis@medicaid.state.al.us

During the August , Patient 1st Advisory Council Meeting, it was brought to our attention that PMP Patient 1st providers need clarification regarding several aspects of the Patient 1st program especially regarding referrals.

1. Referral Process (The Alabama Medicaid Provider Manual)

“PMPs are contractually required to either provide services or authorize another provider to treat the enrollee while adhering to the referral process.”

2. Billing Referral (The Alabama Medicaid Provider Manual)

“A PMP may approve a referral for billing purposes only. Such a referral should be documented “for billing purposes only” on the standard billing referral form in the space provided under REFERRAL VALID FOR. The billing procedure for this type of referral is the same as all other referral types.”

Even though a provider has a referral to perform patient services, a referral is still needed for the hospital to be reimbursed for outpatient services.

To clarify: Referrals are needed for Outpatient Hospital Services for procedure codes: 99281 – 99285, outpatient surgical procedures and therapies (PT, ST and OT), observation beds and non-certified emergencies.

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In the last couple of months, the Patient 1st program has had problems with PMPs failing to notify the Alabama Medicaid Agency of their practice closing. If you do not notify us of your closing, your panel will remain open and patients will still be assigned to you. This creates a hardship on the Patient 1st recipients.

We respectfully ask for future notification of a closing, extended vacation, extended illnesses or anything that would prevent a recipient from being served by your practice.

Disenrollment (The Alabama Medicaid Agency Provider Manual)

PMPs must give at least 30 days written notice prior to disenrolling from the Patient 1st Program. **NOTE:** Failure to provide a 30-day notice may preclude future participation opportunities and/or recoupment of case management fees.

F.Y.I

PMP change forms are available on the Alabama Medicaid Website and can be e-mailed to the agency. These forms are provider and recipient specific and can be found at our website www.medicaid.state.al.us under the Patient 1st Program.

Please review Chapter 39 of your Alabama Medicaid Provider Manual for Patient 1st program information.